



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Ponderosa Way Fuelbreak		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27 & 28; T32N, R1E, MDB&M	COUNTY	Shasta
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Mark Collins, Forester I		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit 875 Cypress Ave, Redding, CA 96001	PHONE	(530) 225-2418

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this shaded fuel break project is to reduce the volume of hazardous fuels within the Wildland/Urban Interface along both sides of Ponderosa Way south of the community of Whitmore. The reduction in ladder fuels and brush continuity will reduce fire intensity and improve the effectiveness of air tanker drops in the event of a wildfire.

Treatment will be performed by Cal Fire inmate hand crews using hand tools and chain saws in maintenance and development of a Defensible Fuel Profile Zone along Ponderosa Way between Whitmore and Hubbard Way. The treatment area will be approximately 200-ft wide by 4 miles in length (approximately 100 acres). The vegetation consists of oak woodland, dense shrubs & mixed oak/conifer stands. Project work will involve utilizing chainsaws & hand tools to remove brush & dead ground fuels. Live trees which are less than 12-in. diameter will be thinned and removed in order to improve spacing of desired trees and decrease ladder fuels. Trees to be left on site will have branches pruned up to 8-ft above ground level. Shrubs will be removed to break up fuel continuity. Woody material generated by this project shall be chipped and scattered and/or removed.

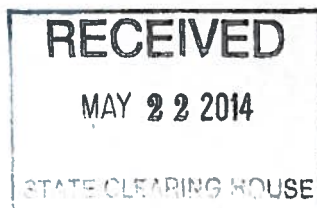
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, 15304 (e) Minor Alteration to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Minimal ground disturbance is expected as all work will be done utilizing hand crews. No heavy equipment will be used on this project. Watercourses within the project's impact area will be afforded standard Forest Practice Rules protection measures. A current NDDDB search was conducted. The project as proposed will not have a negative impact upon any listed species of plant or animal with potential to be found on the project area. A current Archaeological records check is on file with W.M. Beatty and Associates. The project area was surveyed by individuals that have completed the Cal Fire Archaeological training. Reports provided by these individuals have been accepted after review by a Cal Fire Archaeologist. No sites were identified. This project as proposed will not have a significant impact on the environment. Field review by Cal Fire staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department's findings are that no significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of this project. Documentation on the environmental review completed by Cal Fire is kept on file at Cal Fire's Shasta-Trinity Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 5/21/14
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Resource Management Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection